HEAD VI—FOREST.

This Department is overmanned. The work of conservation does not keep pace with the cost of establishment nor is it proportionate to the Revenues from the Forests. According to the Budget under discussion, Rs. 5,90,000 are set apart for conservation and works. The cost of establishments comes to Rs. 2,40,900, so that for expending nearly 6 Rs. on conservation, the establishment charges come to about Rs. 2½. No doubt, the Department attends to the working down of timber also. Even then, the proportion is certainly too much. One feature of the Budget is that it makes no separate provision for a plantation division in the forthcoming year. Detailed Account No. 6 A shows that for the work of actual conservation (by which I understand the work of planting to make up for the deficit caused by the annual denudation) Rs. 41,000 (in items d, e and f) are allowed. Of this Rs. 2,500 go to preserve the Forest for protection from fire. There remains only Rs. 38,600 for the actual work of rearing and planting. The total quantity of timber to be removed from the Forests by Government and private agencies combined is valued at Rs. 6,32,000, Comment on this seems to be needless. Provision is made of Rs. 3,600 for working plans. It is a matter of common knowledge that there are in the archives of the Forest Department office several working plans prepared by competent officers at a cost of several thousands of rupees during the administration of the Department by Messrs. Rama Row and Subramonia Aiyar. Any one of these plans may be made use of and special allotment of funds for this purpose could be avoided. The rate of cutting down timber should bear a definite proportion to the rate of plantation. A tree felled to-day is the growth of 40 to 70 years. For every tree cut down, at least five plants should invariably come into existence so that, making allowance to loss on account of thinning and natural decay or failure to grow, the tree that is cut down to-day is replaced by another. Large funds should be allowed for this. Under the item of receipts in respect of firewood and charcoal is given Rs. 25,000. This requires a word of comment. There ought to be a prohibitive export duty on firewood. The scarcity of fuel supply in the country is great. Fuel is required for domestic consumption by the people and also for the use of factories already in existence and those that are being formed. A heavy export duty which will completely prevent firewood from being sent out of the country should soon be imposed. For charcoal also this is necessary. A policy like the one I have advocated will either stop export or increase the revenues. It will be advantageous if Government fix the maximum quantity of firewood that may be exported from the country, if for any reason, Government think, that a total prohibition of export is not practicable. The only other item that I would touch upon is what is known as the minor produce. The receipts under this head are given as Rs. 30,000. This is too low. The revenue under this head is capable of vast expansion. A special officer should be put in charge of the work of collecting the minor produce from the forest. With a separate staff, this officer should be able to considerably develop this branch of the revenue.

HEAD No. IX—A.

LAW AND JUSTICE AND COURTS OF LAW.

With regard to this Head, I do not propose to take the time of the Council by making any lengthy remarks. I associate myself with all that has been said by my esteemed friends Messrs. Krishna Aiyangar and Parameswaran Pillai. I will only submit a word with regard to the receipts and expenditure of the Department. The receipts from the sale of court fee stamps are said to be Rs. 15,25,000. A small portion of this revenue, as suggested by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is derived from Criminal Courts and, if so, that may be set off against the total receipts. Though 15 and odd lakhs of rupees are contributed by Civil Courts the expenditure on Courts is only six lakhs. The gain to the State is over 8 lakhs. Taxing of justice as a policy is neither safe nor sound. To make profits out of it is to say the least inequitable. An increase of revenue under stamps only means an increase of litigation, which undoubtedly means that people are getting more quarrelsome. It is not a proof of their growing riches. The Judicial Department is notoriously low-paid and from my observation of the trend of affairs in this country for the last twenty years, the Judicial Department, in spite of its docility and amenability to turn out good work, has always been treated as a step-daughter in a united family.

The salaries of the judicial officers, particularly, the Munsiffs and the Judges and the members of the subordinate staff should soon be revised. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyangar pleaded the cause of the Munsiffs and Judges. I am certainly of opinion that Munsiffs and Judges deserve increase of salary. But I would more strongly plead the cause of the subordinates of the Munsiffs' Courts, because the brunt of the work falls upon them. Those who have anything to do with the work in Court can watch and see how heavy is the work that falls upon them. I know as a matter of fact that clerks have

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to attend office at 7 o'clock in the morning and that they are not able to leave before 7 or 8 P. M. The pay allowed to them, compared to the other branches of the service is very low. I submit that their pay is entitled to an early revision.

HEAD IX (B)

THE JAILS.

This institution during the last 5 years has cost the State amounts varying between Rs. 70,000 to Rs. one lakh. The receipts from the Department have varied between Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 12,000. I do not mean that the jails should be thought of as a source of revenue to the State. But attempts should be made to make it at least self-supporting. The industrial side of the Department could be developed on a larger scale which while adding to the receipts, will enable Government to send out the inmates of the jail as a better type of people. Not only would they not give further trouble to the society, but they would be in a position to add to the wealth of the country. The jail manufactures ought to be expanded considerably so that the income derived therefrom may pay for the upkeep of the jail.

HEAD XI.

STATIONERY.

The expenditure on this head is mentioned as Rs. 2,05,800. The system of giving contract for stationery to foreign firms should be abolished. I know that there are people in Travancore, who are willing, to take up the work and in addition, give security for the proper discharge of their responsibility.

HEAD XVI.

EDUCATION.

The contribution towards education should be substantially increased. The grant towards this Department for the next year is Rs. 29,60,000, while the Government hope to realise Rs. 5,90,000. The net cost will then be only Rs. 23 and odd lakhs. In spite of the proudly proclaimed educational advancement, the percentage of literacy is still low. In the matter of primary or elementary education, the policy of Government for the last few years, has been to induce people to put up buildings and to furnish the same and for Government to appoint teachers. Of late, this practice has been extended to High School or Secondary education also. The cost of books to be purchased by a lad learning in Classes I to IV of a Vernacular School at the present day is several times what it was formerly. A Text Book Committee which has not so much feelings for the condition of the ryot as for patronage to their votaries comes out with a long string of books and the poor ryot who is not able to make a living out of his slender income has to pay for these books. Under these conditions, to speak of elementary education being made free in the country is a farce and a mockery. Another object for which I would recommend large grants is a system of scholarships. Young men of parts should be sent to Europe and America for higher studies in Sciences and Arts so that a few years hence we shall have plenty of men in our country to take up their place as professors in all the important subjects. Professors of the type of a Rangaswamy Aiyangar or Ramanathan are rare even in British India and it will be more difficult still to get them to go over here. In the interests of higher education, a scheme should be formulated with as little delay as possible; so that an efficient educational service for the future may be provided. Funds should also be allotted to institute chairs for the teaching of Natural Sciences and Philosophy, in the Arts College and to improve all round the existing branches of studies.

HEAD XVII.

AGRICULTURE.

The allotment to this Department is insufficient. Nearly 66 per cent. of the people depend on agriculture for their living. Expansion of agriculture, both extensively and intensively, should be made. The G. O. dated 12th June 1920 regarding this question, is unsatisfactory. The experiment of intensive cultivation of *punja* lands has proved successful and hence a bolder scheme of reform should be undertaken at an early date. Owners of all lands (*punja*) which are now cultivated only once in two years should be encouraged, by a system of loans, to cultivate them every year. Similarly, all available lands in and around forests should be thrown open for paddy cultivation. In both these ways the output of paddy every year should be increased several fold. During the last 5 years the value of rice and paddy imported into Travancore has varied between Rs. one crore and seventy lakhs and Rs. one crore and eighty-four lakhs which shows that the country is greatly dependent on foreign supply for its food. The position of the average ryot in Travancore cannot be more effectively described than

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